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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" If any had been selected it would have been known as they would have ceased to be Members of the Assembly."

SRI K. PARTHASARATHY :—" The Hon. Minister stated that linguistic considerations were taken into account. May I know what the linguistic divisions adopted for this purpose are? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The divisions are Tamil, Malayalam and Kanarese."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Sir, did the selection include men from the Government service? If so, did it include any members from the Scheduled Castes and Backward Communities? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, 23 persons were recruited from the Services. There was no person belonging to the Scheduled Castes; there were 4 Backward Classes persons out of the 23."

SRI S. S. KOLKEBAIL :—" May I know whether it is constitutional to select candidates on a linguistic basis? " 11-10 a.m.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" We have prescribed certain qualifications which are necessary for discharging the duties attached to the post. A person who does not know Tamil cannot function in a Tamil area. So language is prescribed as one of the qualifications for recruitment."

SRI S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM :—" Out of 70 applicants from the Backward Communities only 4 were selected which means that 66 were not selected. Since only one person belonging to the Scheduled Castes was selected, the balance of quota reserved for Scheduled Castes may be allotted to the Backward Communities as the applicants from these communities are numerous."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" There are equally more numerous applicants from the other communities and they also have to be provided for."

Women's Welfare Organizations

* 673 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government received any deputation on behalf of the State Advisory Committee for Women's Welfare on 23rd June 1954;

(*b*) whether the Women's Welfare Committee members are visiting the slums and looking after the welfare of the women living there;

(*c*) the number of Harijan women in the Women's Welfare Organizations in the State;

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(*d*) the extent of the annual State aid and Central Government grant given to these organizations; and

(*e*) the specific activities of these organizations in slums and the particular improvements made during the year 1953?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) The members of the State Advisory Committee do not regularly visit the slums.

" (*c*) Seventeen.

" (*d*) The Women's Welfare Branches are run by the State Government. The budget allotment for the Women's Welfare Department for the year 1954–55 is Rs. 3,69,600. No grant is received from the Government of India for running these branches.

" (*e*) The women in the slums are helped to keep their surroundings clean. They are taught handicrafts and provided with work under small-scale industries to supplement their family income. Kitchen gardens are started in the branches. Maternity and child care in the slums are attended to by the maternity assistants. Pre-basic classes are conducted for the children between 2 and 7 years of age. In certain Women's Welfare Branches, the poor slum women and children are supplied with skimmed milk, vitamin tablets received from the UNICEF and Health Departments. Medicines are supplied to the people in the slum area for common ailments, etc. The poor members are helped in hospitalisation. Adult literacy classes are regularly conducted in slums for the benefit of the poor women."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The next question which also is on the same subject may be answered."

* 674 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a deputation on behalf of the Madras Women's Social Welfare Council waited on him in June 1954 and represented to the Government to appoint Assistant Women's Welfare Officer in each district and to open poor home societies for homeless women in each district; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) A deputation on behalf of the State Advisory Committee of the Women's Welfare Department waited on the Minister for Agriculture on the 23rd June 1954 and suggested the appointment of one Assistant Women's Welfare Officer in each district. The deputation did not make any representation about the starting of poor home societies.